

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-05 /037 W

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R 271220Z MAY 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2022

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CIIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0563

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD MIKE), IZ

SUBJECT: CODEL KENNEDY: VISIT TO IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 558 (NOTAL)

1. GOI GAVE SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY AND PARTY TOP VIP TREATMENT THROUGHOUT MAY 24-26 VISIT. CODEL WAS MET AT AIRPORT AT 1230 MAY 24 MINISTER OF STATE HISHAM ASH-SHAWI AND DG OF PROTOCOL. FAMILY AND HUNTER STAYED AT RASHID PALACE, MOST EXCLUSIVE OF OFFICIAL GUEST PALACES. NON-FAMILY MEMBERS PUT UP IN BAGHDAD HOTEL. ALL EXPENSES

FOR ENTIRE GROUP WERE BORNE BY GOI. VISIT WAS HIGHLY VISIBLE WITH PUBLICATION OF SENATOR'S OFFICIAL CALLS IN ALL PAPERS AND THROUGHOUT VISIT SENATOR HAD MOTORCADE OF THREE MOTORCYCLE POLICE, TWO POLICE CARS, TWO SECURITY CARS AND SIX NEW MERCEDES. CODEL HAD HIGHEST PRAISE FOR GOI HANDLING OF VISIT, PARTICULARLY SECURITY.

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2. FIRST AFTERNOON CODEL VISITED IRAQ MUSEUM HOSTED BY DG OF ANTIQUITIES. SENATOR AND HUNTER THEN PAID A TWO

HOURLY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI WHILE REMAINING
OF
PARTY VISITED SUQS. IN EVENING GOI LAID ON BOAT
TRIP ON THE TIGRIS AND ELABORATE MASGOUF (RIVER FISH
SHEWERED ON STAKES COOKED BEFORE OPEN FIRE) PARTY ON ISLAND
NEAR BAGHDAD COMPLETE WITH BANDPN EGYPTIAN BELLY DANCERS
AND GYPIES.

3. MAY 25 BEGAN WITH PRIVATE MASS BY APOSTOLIC PRO
NUNCIE THEN VISIT TO BABYLON BY CAR. SENATOR HAD TO
RETURN TO BAGHDAD FOR NOON MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AL-
BAKR WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO LAST 15 MINUTES AND LASTED ONE
HOUR AND A HALF, AN UNPRECEDENTED LENGTH OF TIME.
AFTER PRIVATE LUNCH SENATOR VISITED MEDICAL CITY, IRAQ'S
MOST MODERN HOSPITAL, WHILE REST OF GROUP VISITED SCHOOL
FOR HANDICAPPED. FOLLOWING INFORMAL TEA AND BRIEFING WITH
BRITISH AMBASSADOR, SENATOR MET FOR ONE HOUR AND HALF WITH
MINISTER OF OIL ABDUL KARIM. SUNDAY EVENING THERE WAS PRIVATE
DINNER AND EARLY RETIRING TO PREPARE FOR FIRST DAY OF IRANIAN
VISIT. CODEL WAS SEEN OFF AT AIRPORT MONDAY
MORNING BY U/S OF MFA HADITHI AND DG OF PROTOCOL.
GOI PROVIDED SPECIAL BOEING 737 TO FLY CODEL TO ABADAN.

4. COMMENT: VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FROM OUR POINT OF
VIEW AND, UNLIKE PREVIOUS VISITS BY PROMINENT AMERICANS,
WAS PUBLICIZED IN PRESS AND HIGHLY VISIBLE. GOI CLEARLY
WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAKE STRONG IMPRESSION ON SENATOR.
ONLY DISAPPOINTMENT FROM SENATOR'S POINT OF VIEW WAS
ABSENCE OF MEETING WITH RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN.
USINT OFFICERS AND WIVES WERE INVITED BY GOI TO PARTICIPATE
FULLY IN VISIT. FURTHER COMMENT BY SEPTEL.
LOWRIE

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